

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIMS 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the tapered fiber filters that are manufactured to match simulated responses with amplitudes of less than 3 dB, are produced with a tapered profile having a central beating region and a taper slope adapted to minimize higher order modulation in the resulting responses.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the tapered fiber filters that are manufactured to match simulated responses with amplitudes of more than 3 dB, are produced with a tapered profile having a central beating region and a coupling region at each end of said beating region with a non-adiabatic taper, thereby forming a tapered filter adapted to minimize modulation in the resulting responses.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the tapered filters are manufactured separately to match individual simulated responses and then are concatenated in-line by splicing them on a single-mode fiber.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the tapered filters are produced in-line on the same single-mode fiber to match the individual simulated responses.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, in which, upon their manufacture, the tapered fiber filters are bonded to a substrate and packaged in a protective packaging.

8. (Amended) An optical filter with a desired spectral response when produced by the method according to claim 1.

MARKED-UP AMENDED CLAIMS 3,4,5,6,7 and 8

3. (Amended) A method according to [claims 1 or 2,] claim 1, in which the tapered fiber filters that are manufactured to match simulated responses with amplitudes of less than 3 dB, are produced with a tapered profile having a central beating region and a taper slope adapted to minimize higher order modulation in the resulting responses.

4. (Amended) A method according to [claims 1 or 2,] claim 1, in which the tapered fiber filters that are manufactured to match simulated responses with amplitudes of more than 3 dB, are produced with a tapered profile having a central beating region and a coupling region at each end of said beating region with a non-adiabatic taper, thereby forming a tapered filter adapted to minimize modulation in the resulting responses.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 4,] claim 1, in which the tapered filters are manufactured separately to match individual simulated responses and then are concatenated in-line by splicing them on a single-mode fiber.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 or 4,] claim 1, in which the tapered filters are produced in-line on the same single-mode fiber to match the individual simulated responses.

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 6,] claim 1, in which, upon their manufacture, the tapered fiber filters are bonded to a substrate and packaged in a protective packaging.

8. (Amended) An optical filter with a desired spectral response when produced by the method according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1.